

Genesis 12–50

Israel's Birth & Preservation



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

GENESIS STRUCTURE



II. Genesis 12-50 (four people)

A. Abraham (12:1–25:11)

B. Isaac (25:12–26:35)

C. Jacob (27–36)

D. Joseph (37–50)





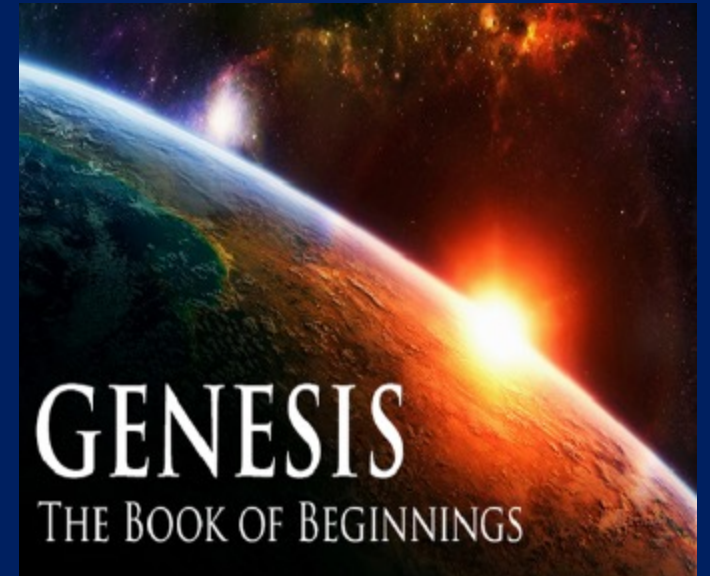
ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY

Larry Wood, 6-6-03
www.Biblenews1.com

Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

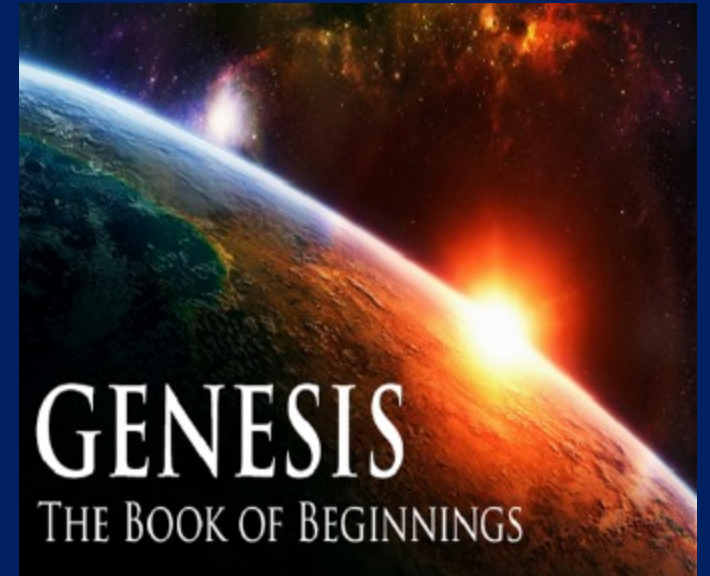
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Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

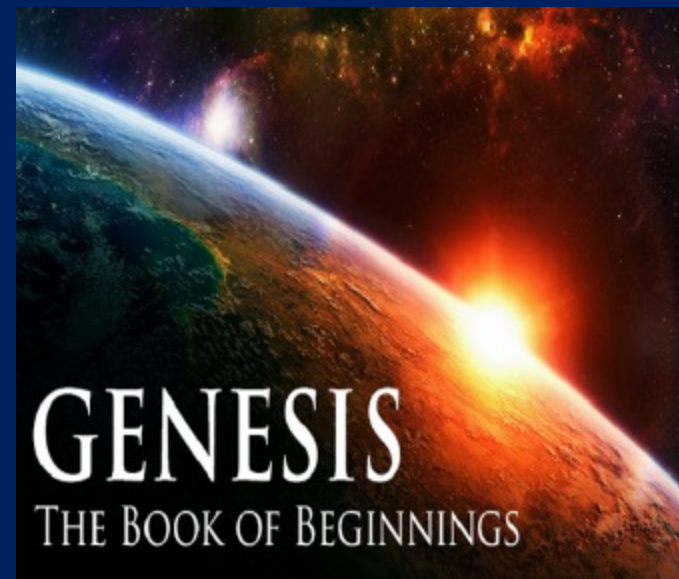
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Genesis 31:22-42

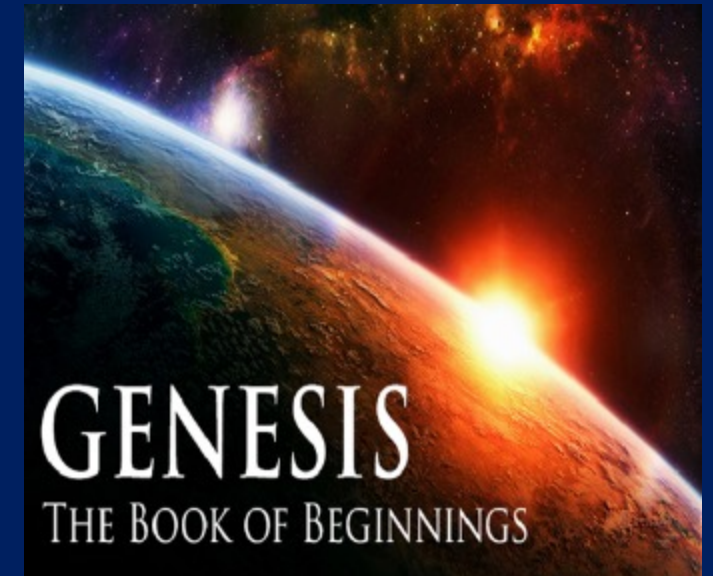
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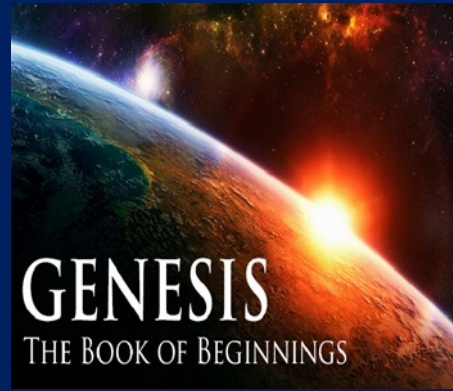
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Ordinary and Consecutive Days?

- Numerical ordinal modifier used 359 times outside of Genesis 1-2 (Joshua 6:3; Esther 4:16)
- “Evening and morning” used 38 times outside of Genesis 1-2
- Exodus 20:8-11; 31:17
- Adam’s age (Gen. 5:5)

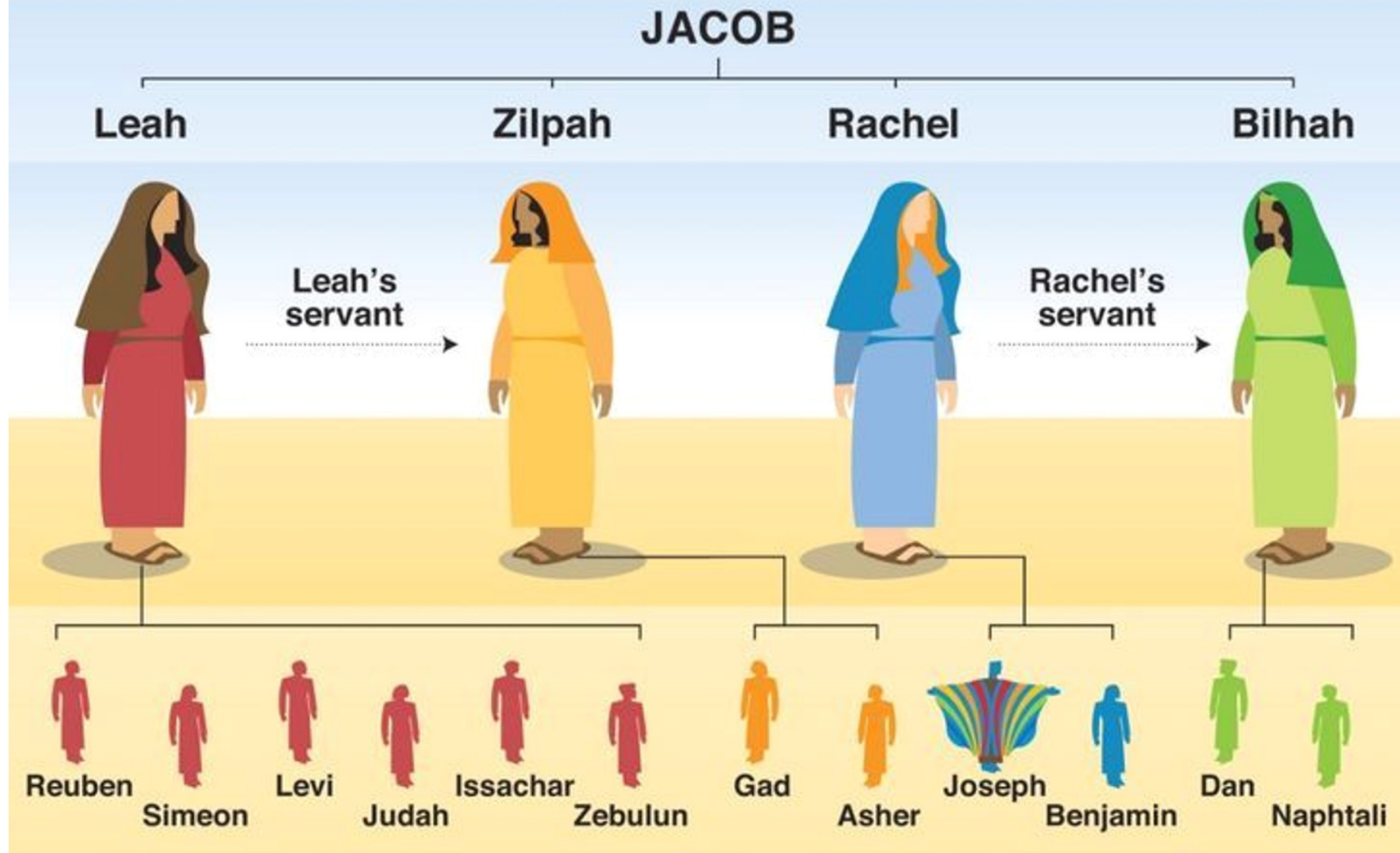




“Back in my father’s day, it took ten days to drive across the Australian outback during the day.”

Ken Ham et al, *Answers in Genesis*, rev ed. (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 1990), 37-emphasis mine.

Jacob's Family

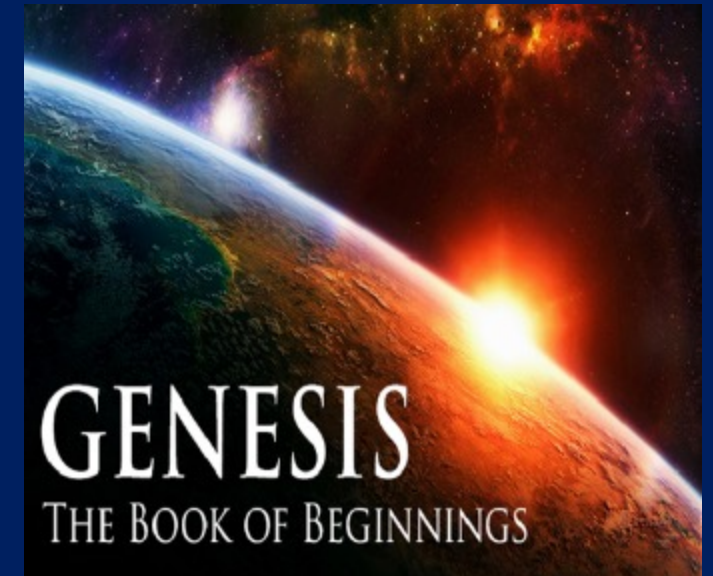




Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

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Genesis 12–25

Abraham's Early Journeys

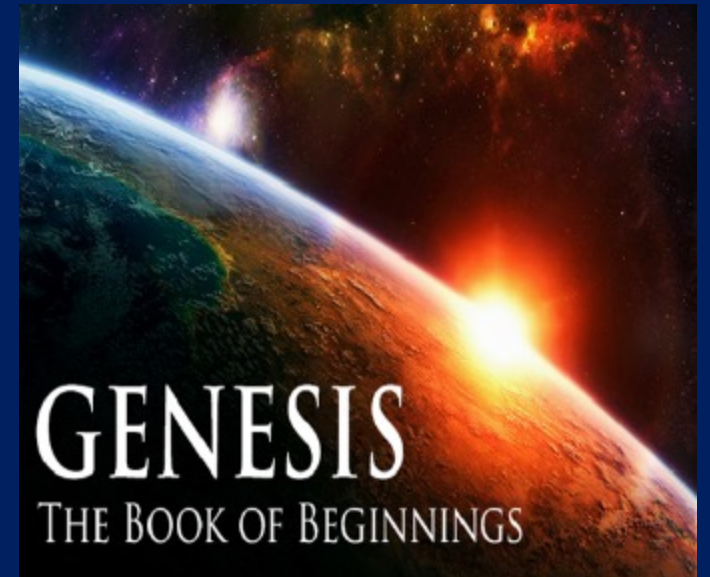


- I. Unconditional promises (Gen. 12:1-3)
- II. From Haran to Canaan (Gen. 12:4-5)
- III. In Canaan (Gen. 12:6-9)
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- V. Abram and Lot Separate (Gen. 13:1-13)
- VI. Reaffirmation of Abram's promises (Gen. 13:14-18)
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- XI. Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 18–19)
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- XIII. Isaac's birth (Gen. 21:1-7)
- XIV. Ishmael's expulsion (21:8-21)
- XV. Abraham & Abimelech's covenant (21:22-34)
- XVI. Abraham sacrifices Isaac (22)
- XVII. Sarah's death (23)
- XVIII. Isaac's marriage (24)
- XIX. Abraham & Keturah (25:1-6)
- XX. Abraham's death (25:7-11)

Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

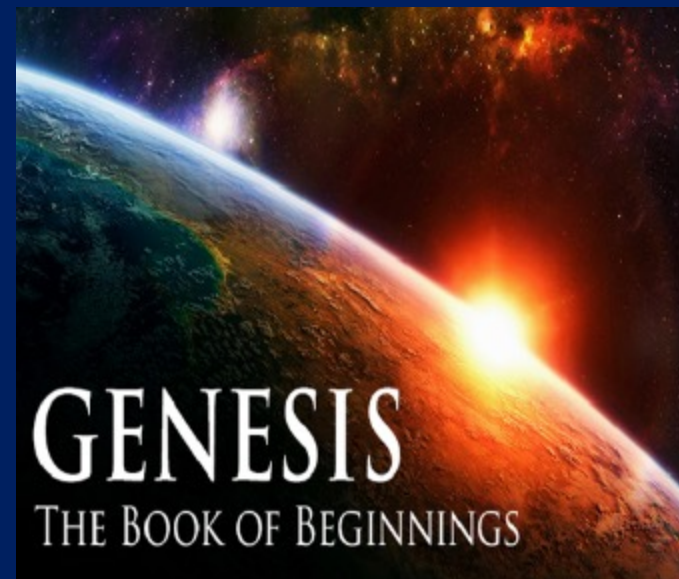
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Genesis 31:22-42

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V. Genesis 31:26-30

Laban's Attack

- A. Laban's false accusations (26-28a)
- B. Laban's conclusion (28b)
- C. Laban's true desire (29a)
- D. God's warning (29b)
- E. Laban's true accusation (30)



V. Genesis 31:26-30

Laban's Attack

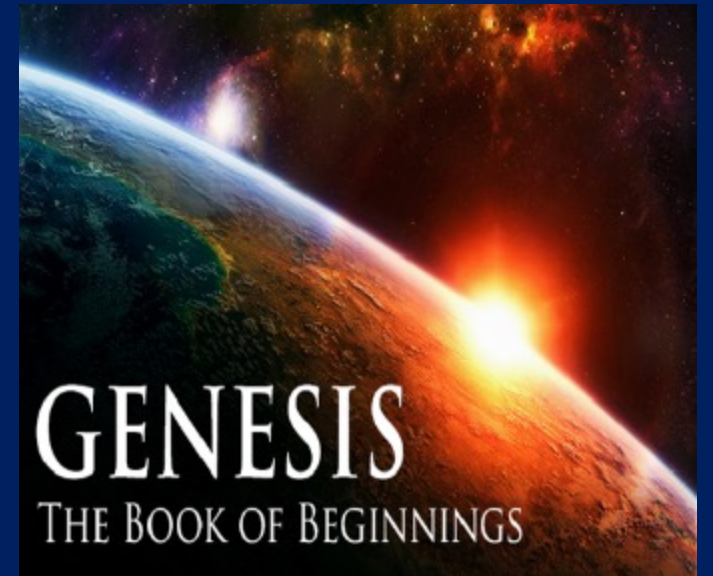
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A. Genesis 31:26-28

Laban's False Accusations

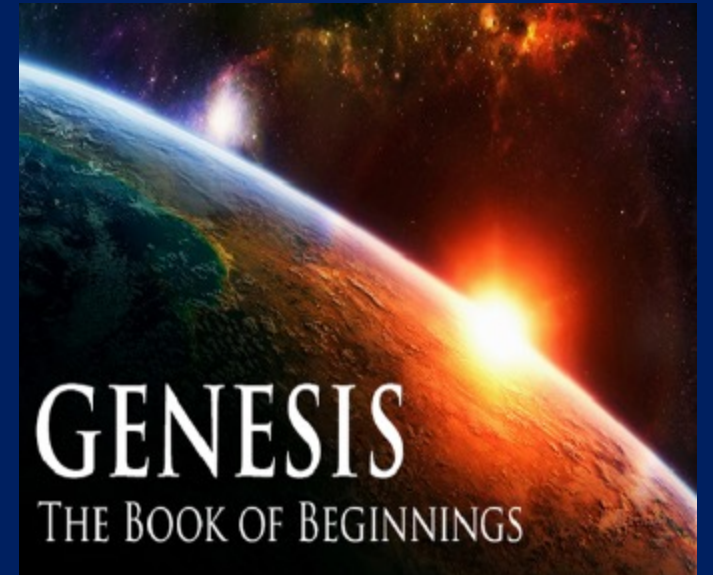
1. Secret flight (26)
2. Lack of a feast (27)
3. Lack of a kiss (28a)



A. Genesis 31:26-28

Laban's False Accusations

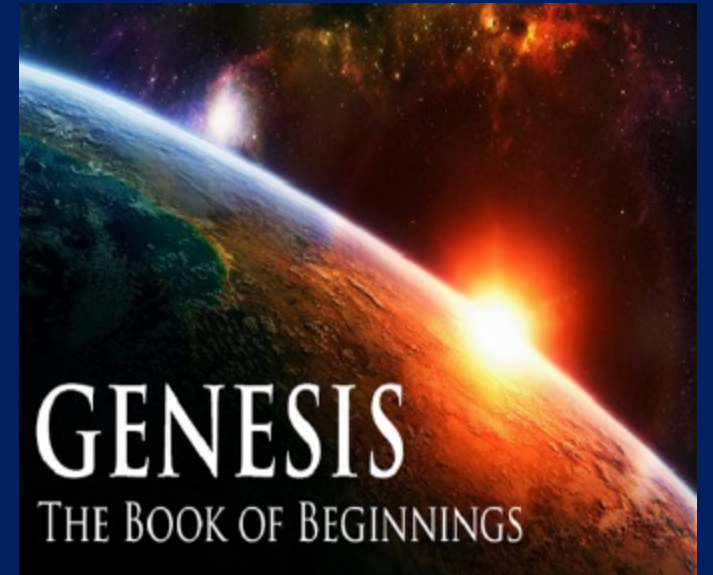
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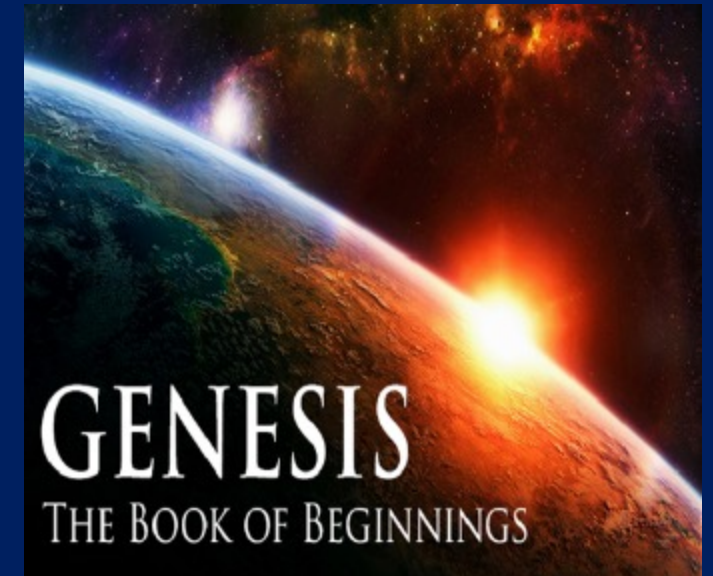
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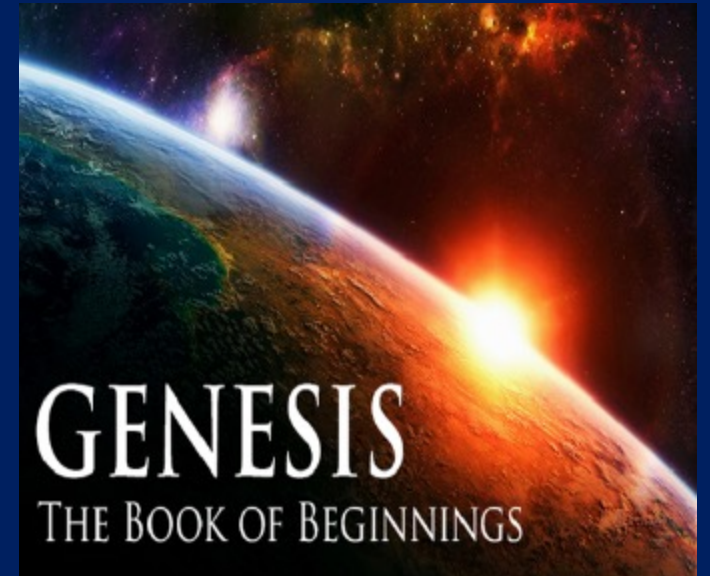
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V. Genesis 31:26-30

Laban's Attack

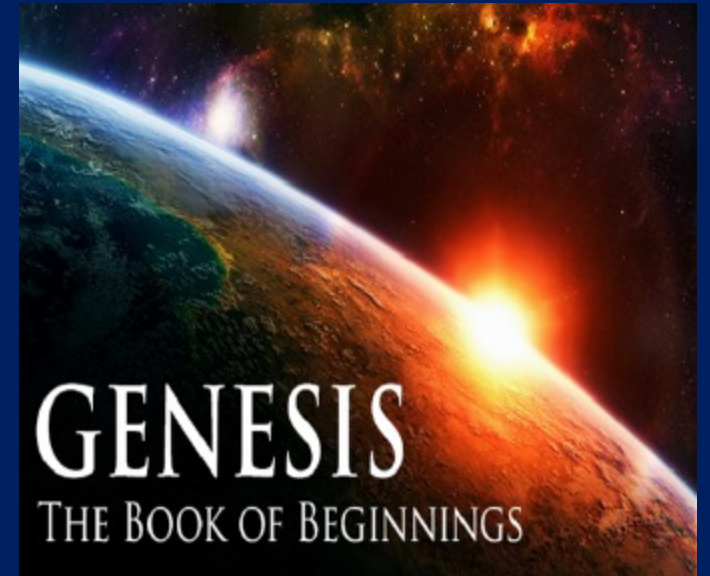
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1 Corinthians 4:5

“Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”



V. Genesis 31:26-30

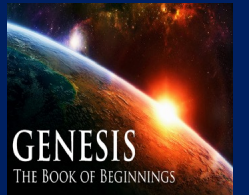
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Genesis 12–25

Abraham's Early Journeys



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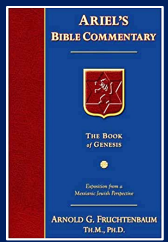
The *Nuzi* Tablets





Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

The Book of Genesis, 465



“The *Code of Hammurabi* states that whoever has the household gods owns the property. The *Nuzi Tablets* record an incident of the person mentioned earlier and states: ‘If Nashwi has a son of his own, he shall divide the estate equally with Wullu, (adopted son), but the son of Nashwi shall take the gods of Nashwi. However, if Nashwi does not have a son of his own, the Wullu shall take the gods.’ So owning the household gods meant the owner could claim the property. Rachel was not worshipping idols, but rather it was her attempt to gain the property of Laban for her husband.”

Joseph P. Free

Joseph P. Free. "Archaeology and the Bible." HIS Magazine. 9 (May 1949). Page 20.

The following, from J. P. Free's *Archaeology and the Bible* gives a good explanation of not only the episode, but also the background of the *Nuzi* tablets: "Over 1000 clay tablets were found in 1925 in the excavation of a Mesopotamian site known today as *Yorgan Tepe*. Subsequent work brought forth another 3000 tablets and revealed the ancient site as 'Nuzi.' The tablets, written about 1500 B.C., illuminate the background of the biblical patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One instance will be cited: When Jacob and Rachel left the home of Laban, . . .

Joseph P. Free

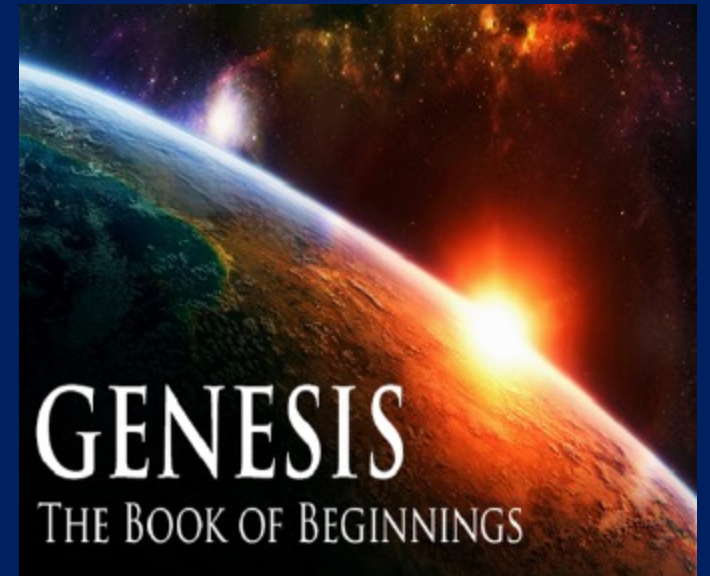
Joseph P. Free. "Archaeology and the Bible." HIS Magazine. 9 (May 1949). Page 20.

...Rachel stole Laban's family images or 'teraphim.' When Laban discovered the theft, he pursued his daughter and son-in-law, and after a long journey overtook them (Genesis 31:19-23). Commentators have long wondered why he would go to such pains to recover images he could have replaced easily in the local shops. The *Nuzi* tablets record one instance of a son-in-law who possessed the family images having the right to lay legal claim to his father-in-law's property, a fact which explains Laban's anxiety."

Genesis 31:22-42

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- VIII. Jacob's response (36-42)



VI. Genesis 31:31-32

Jacob's Response

- A. Jacob's reasons for flight (31)
- B. Jacob's offer to Laban (32a)
- C. Jacob's ignorance (32b)



VI. Genesis 31:31-32

Jacob's Response

- A. Jacob's reasons for flight (31)
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VI. Genesis 31:31-32

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VI. Genesis 31:31-32

Jacob's Response

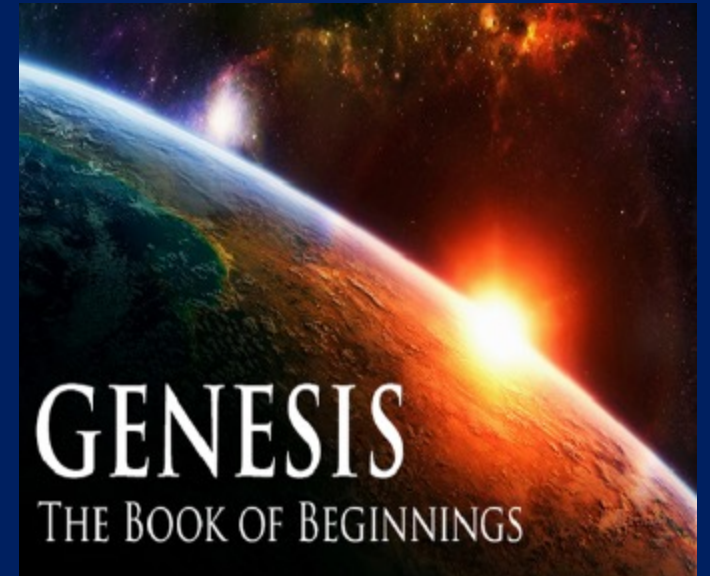
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VII. Genesis 31:33-35

Laban's Search

- A. Laban searches the other tents (33a)
- B. Laban searches Rachel's tent (33b-34)
- C. Rachel's excuse (35)



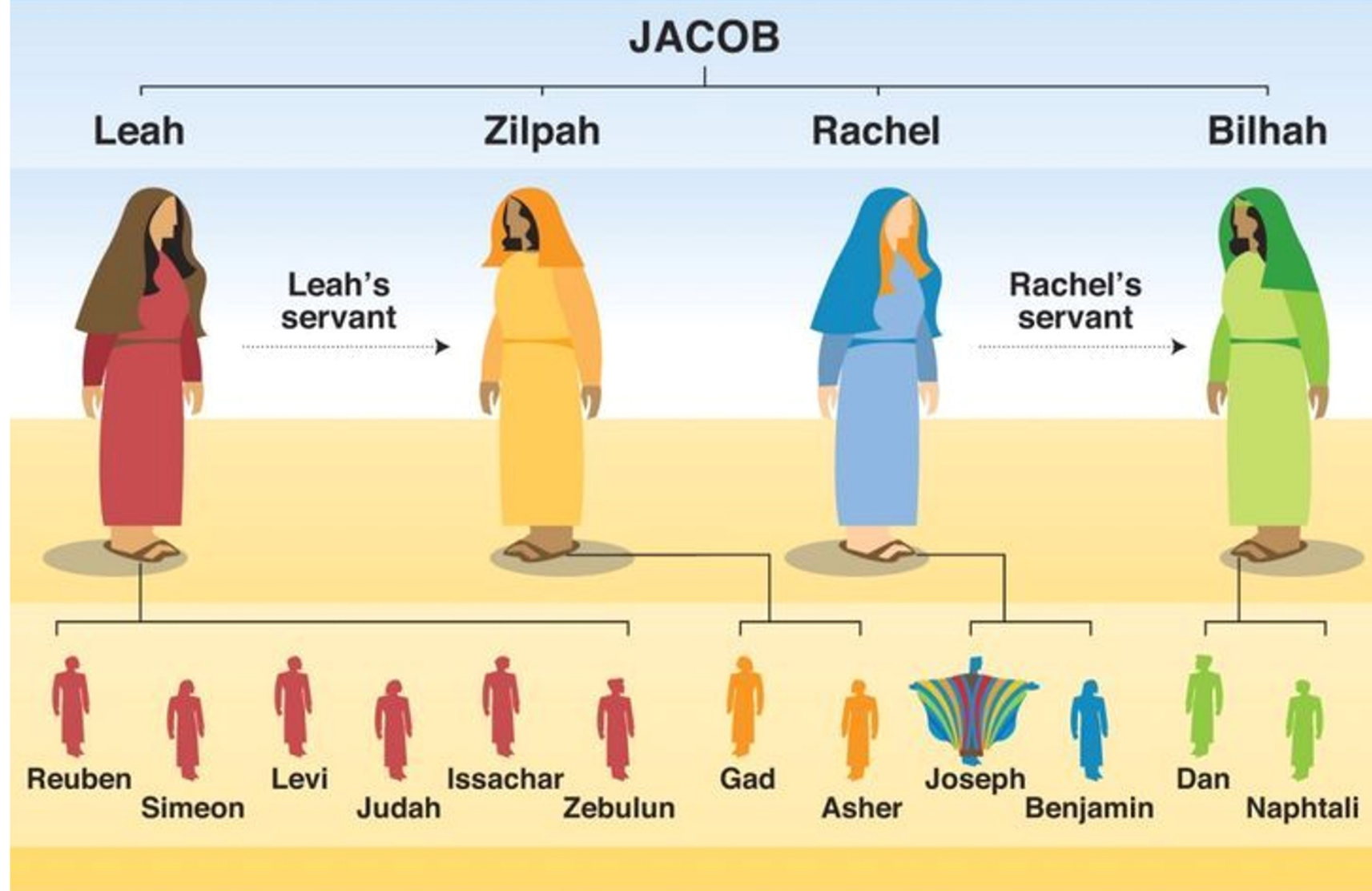
VII. Genesis 31:33-35

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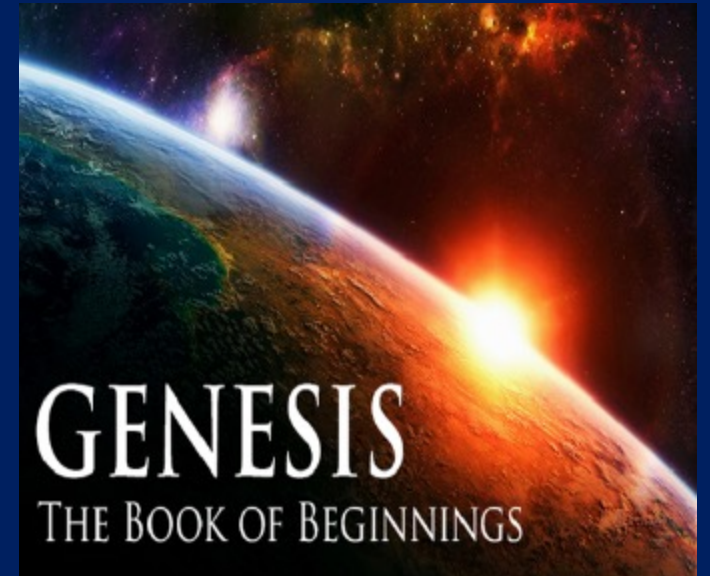
Jacob's Family



VII. Genesis 31:33-35

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VII. Genesis 31:33-35

Laban's Search

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Charles Ryrie

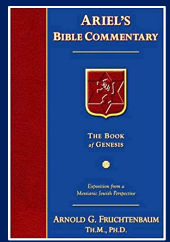
The Ryrie Study Bible, page 42

Genesis 31:35 (RSBEE:NASB1995U): “31:35 It was customary for children, regardless of age, to stand in the presence of their parents (cf. Lev. 19:32; 1 Kings 2:19), but Rachel claimed to be menstruating.”



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The Book of Genesis, 470

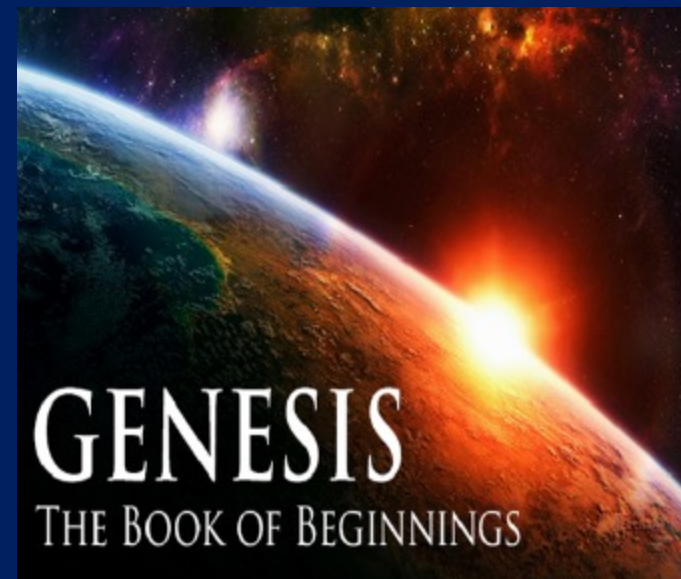


“So, verse 35a gives Rachel’s excuse: *And she said to her father, Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you; for the manner of woman is upon me.* What she claimed was that she was now having her period, so she was in pain and discomfort and could not rise. Now if this was true (it may not have been true since she may have been lying), this would have in effect contaminated these household gods, rendering them unclean because of coming into contact with menstrual blood. A woman in the menstrual state did not need to rise. So Laban was deceived by local custom, just as he once deceived Jacob by local custom (29:26). Here again is curse for curse in kind. This indeed actually may have saved Rachel’s life.”

8 New Promises

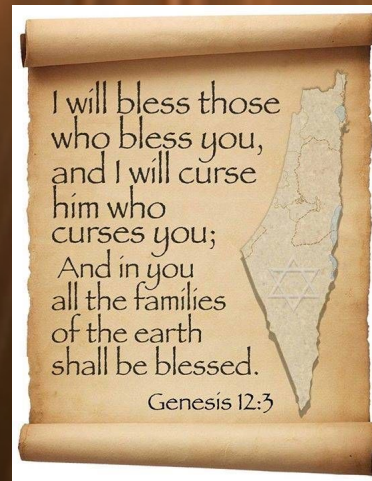
Genesis 12:1-3

- A. Land (Gen. 12:1b)
- B. Great nation (Gen. 12:2a)
- C. Personal blessing (Gen. 12:2b)
- D. Great name (Gen. 12:2c)
- E. Blessing to others (Gen. 12:2d)
- F. Blessing to blessers (Gen. 12:3a)
- G. Cursing to cursers (Gen. 12:3b)
- H. Blessing to the world (Gen. 12:3c)



Genesis 12:3

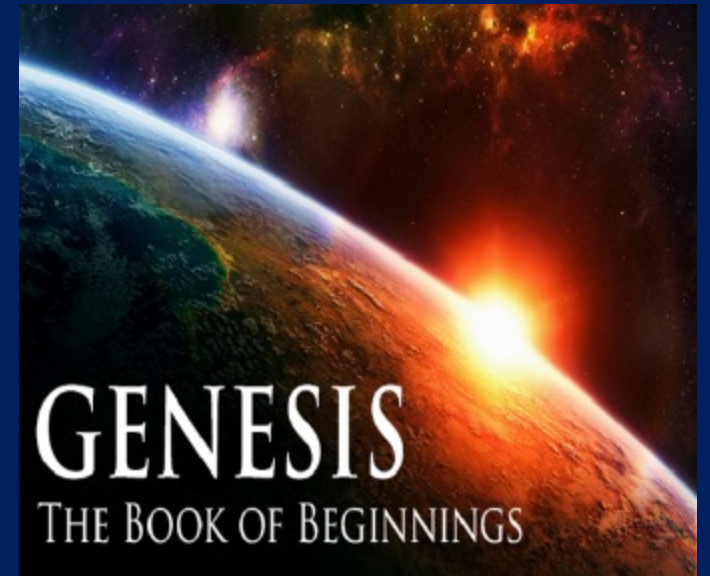
“And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

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VIII. Genesis 31:36-42

Laban's Search

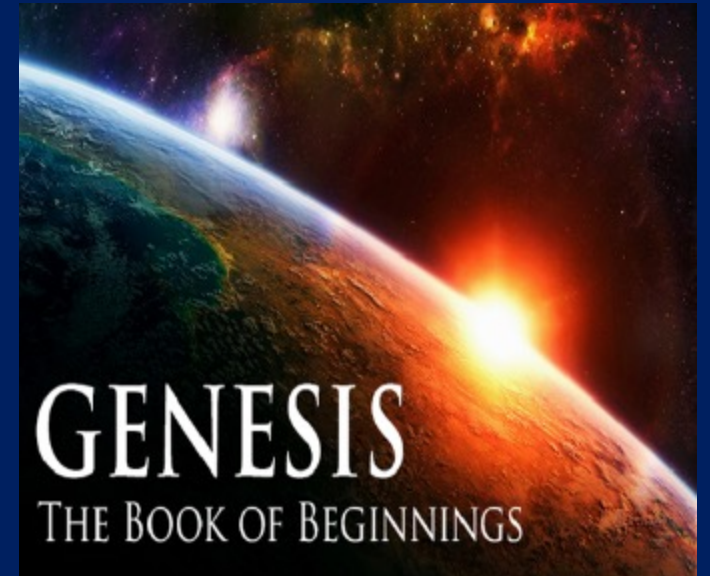
- A. Emotional response (36a)
- B. Jacob's challenge (36b-37)
- C. Jacob's history with Laban (38-42)



VIII. Genesis 31:36-42

Laban's Search

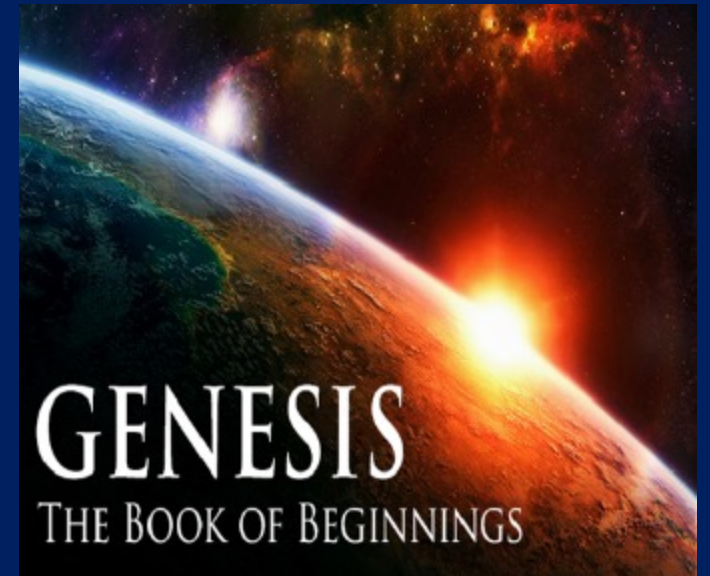
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VIII. Genesis 31:36-42

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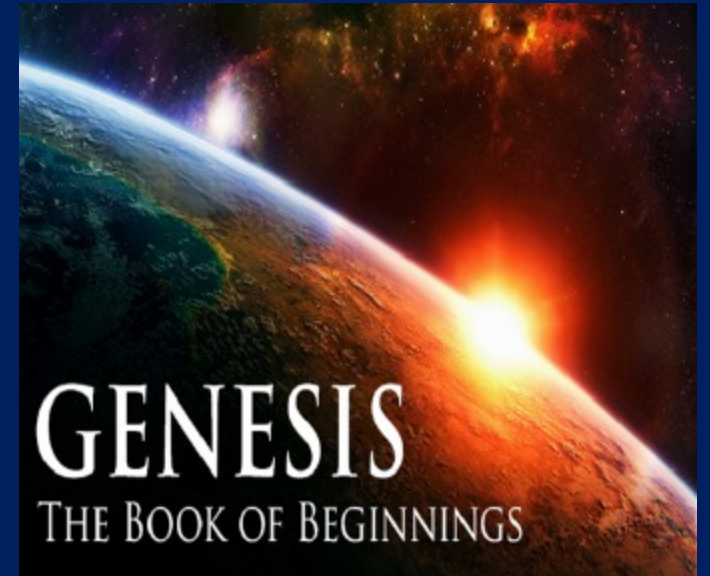
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VIII. Genesis 31:36-42

Laban's Search

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- B. Jacob's challenge (36b-37)
- C. Jacob's history with Laban (38-42)



C. Genesis 31:38-42

Jacob's History with Laban

1. Jacob's innocence (38-40)
2. Laban's dishonesty (41)
3. Divine intervention (42)



C. Genesis 31:38-42

Jacob's History with Laban

1. Jacob's innocence (38-40)
2. Laban's dishonesty (41)
3. Divine intervention (42)



1. Genesis 31:38-40

Jacob's Innocence

- a) No flock miscarriages (38a)
- b) No eating of the flock (38b)
- c) Bore loss for torn beasts (39a)
- d) Made good for stolen property (39b)
- e) Severe conditions & sleepless nights (40)



1. Genesis 31:38-40

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1. Genesis 31:38-40

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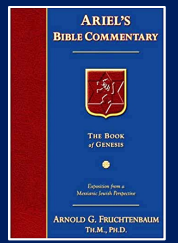
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Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

The Book of Genesis, 470



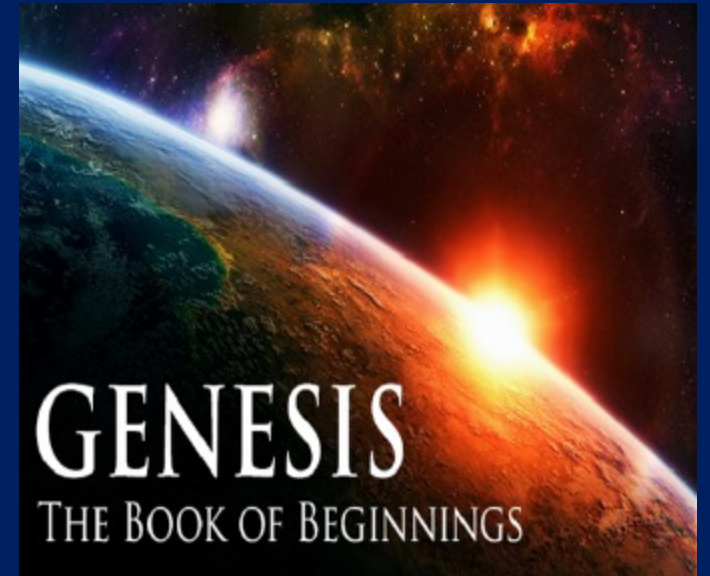
“The rams of your flocks have I not eaten; Jacob did not eat of the flocks when he was hungry. According to the Nuzi Tablets, this was a common sin of shepherds, who frequently used the flocks of their masters to feed themselves; but Jacob never did.”



1. Genesis 31:38-40

Jacob's Innocence

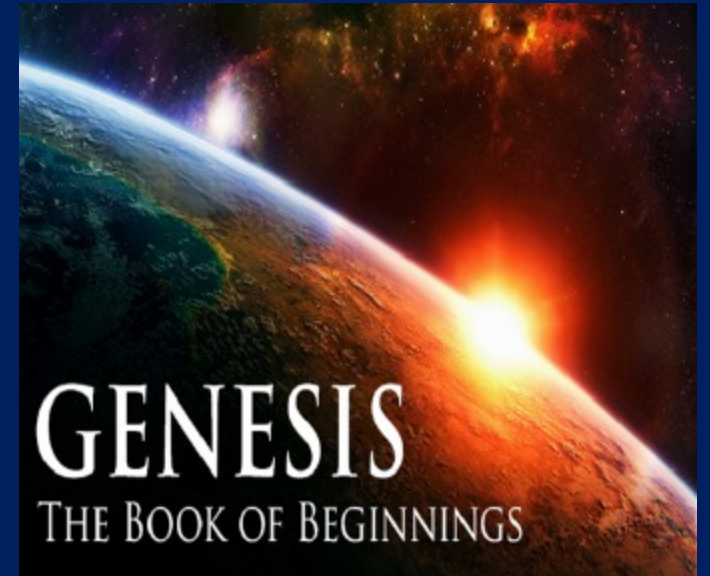
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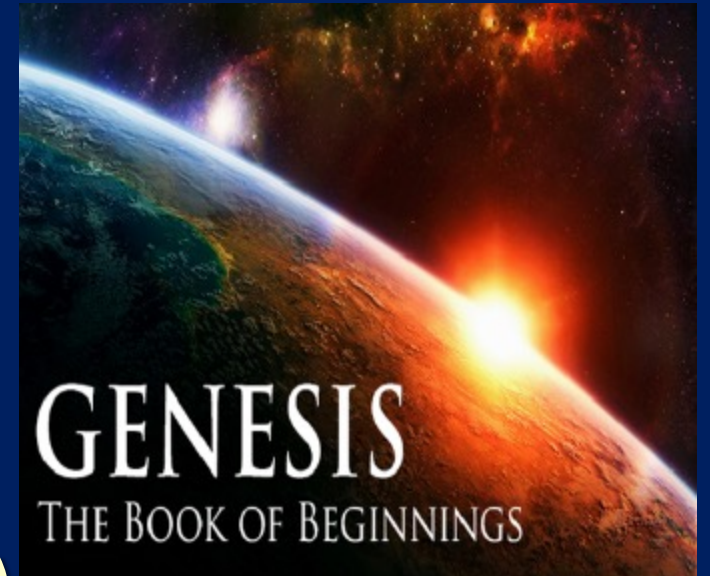
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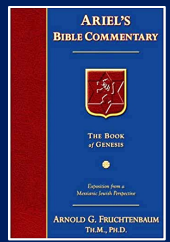
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Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

The Book of Genesis, 471



“In the *Code of Hammurabi*, any charge of negligence could be challenged in court. A shepherd gave a receipt to the owner for the animals he took; he had to return the animals with a reasonable increase, although he was allowed to use some for food. He was not responsible for those killed by lions or by lightning, but any loss due to carelessness had to be repaid tenfold. This shows that Jacob did not demand or make use of his own civil rights under the law in effect in that area of the country. This reveals Jacob’s attitude in that he could have had an even greater gain if he had resorted to the laws of his day to his benefit, but he did not. In 31:41, Jacob spelled out Laban’s unfaithfulness: These twenty years have I been in your house, and he went on to divide the timing.”

C. Genesis 31:38-42

Jacob's History with Laban

1. Jacob's innocence (38-40)
2. Laban's dishonesty (41)
3. Divine intervention (42)



2. Genesis 31:41

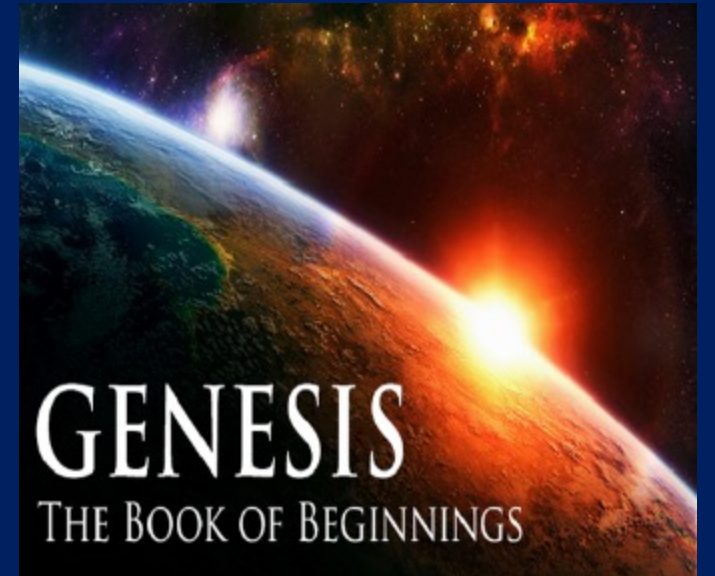
Laban's Dishonesty

- a) Twenty-year summation (41a)
- b) First fourteen years (41b)
- c) Remaining six years (41b)



2. Genesis 31:41 Laban's Dishonesty

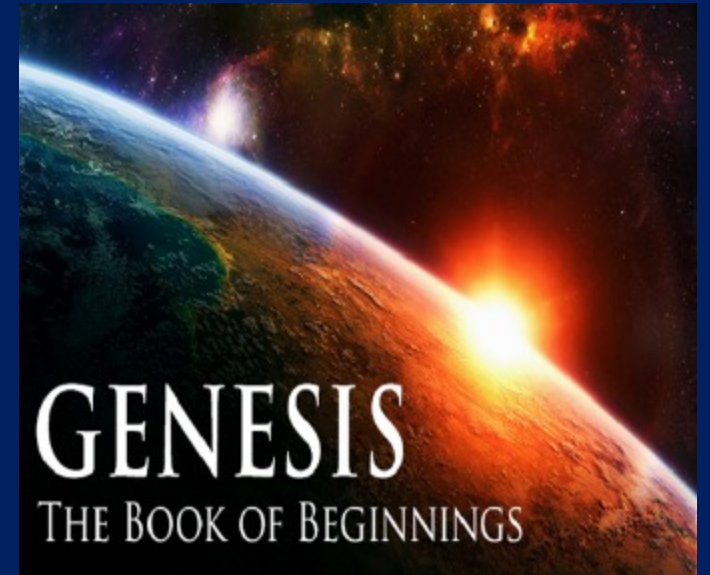
- a) Twenty-year summation (41a)
- b) First fourteen years (41b)
- c) Remaining six years (41b)



2. Genesis 31:41

Laban's Dishonesty

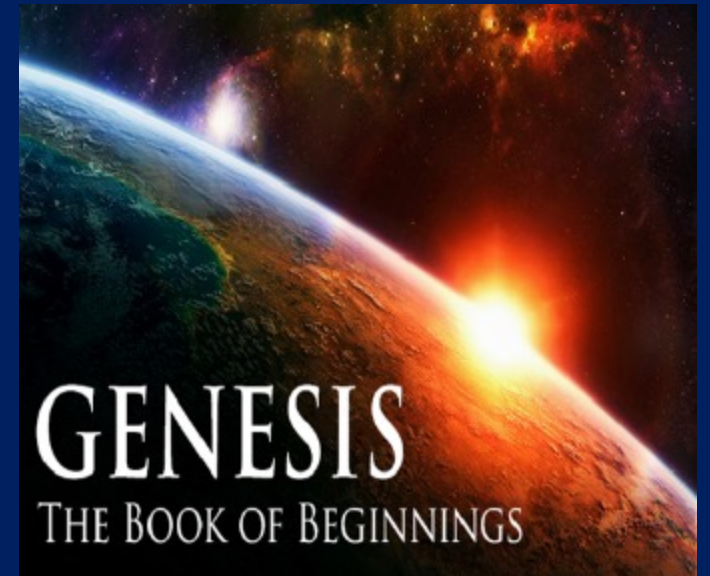
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2. Genesis 31:41

Laban's Dishonesty

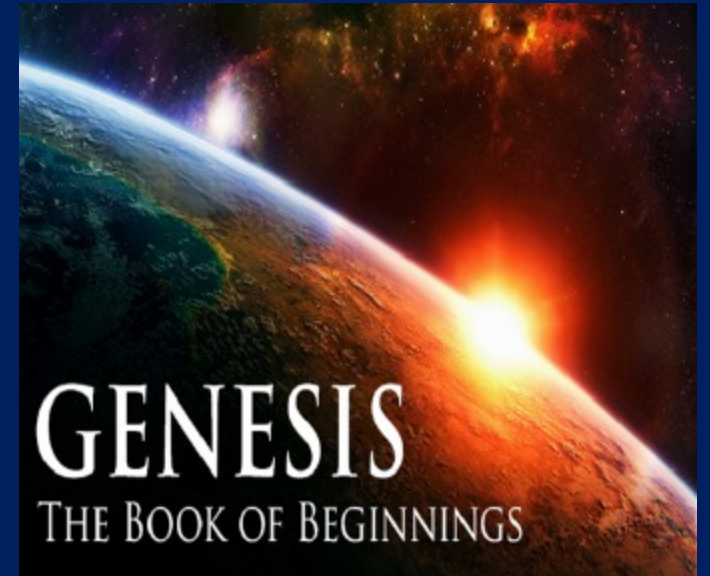
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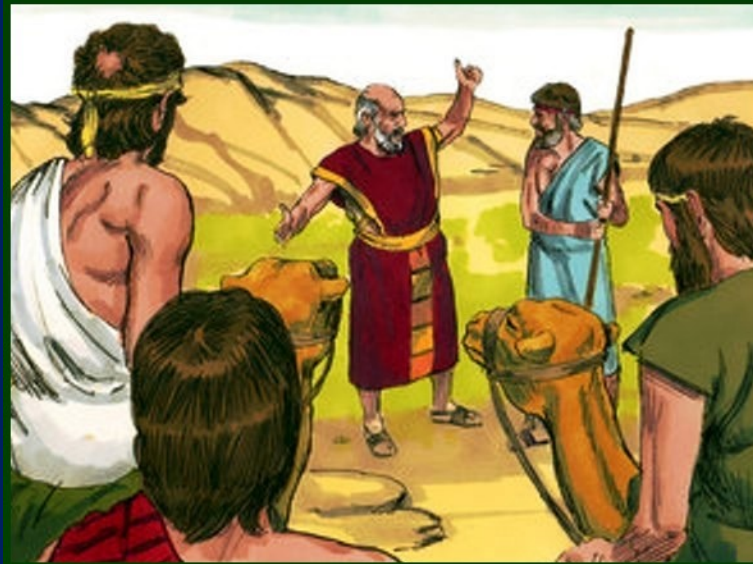




Charles Ryrie

The Ryrie Study Bible, page 42

Genesis 31:42 (RSBEE:NASB1995U): “31:42 the fear of Isaac means ‘the God Isaac feared.’”



GENESIS 21:33

אֵל עוֹלָם

EL OLAM
THE EVERLASTING GOD

יְרֵאָה יְהוָה

Jehovah Jireh

"The Lord Will Provide"



El Roi

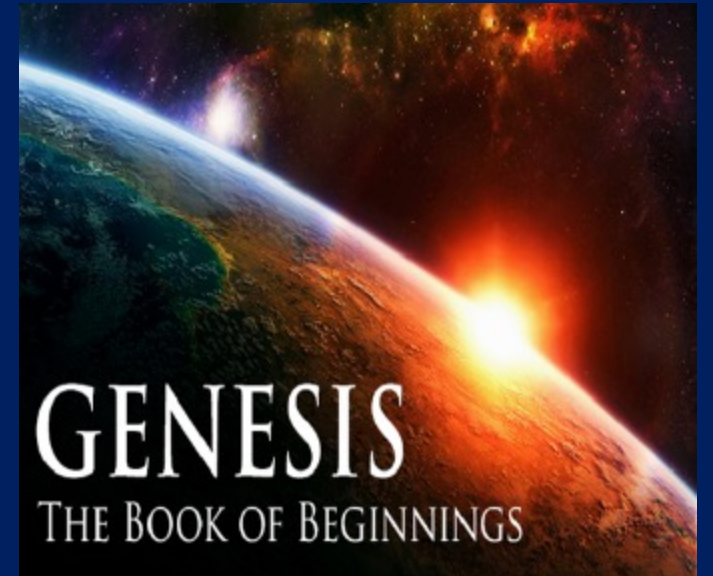
YOU ARE
THE GOD
WHO SEES
ME

Conclusion

Genesis 31:22-42

Laban's Pursuit

- I. Report to Laban (22)
- II. Laban's chase (23)
- III. God's warning (24)
- IV. Laban catches Jacob (25)
- V. Laban's verbal attack (26-30)
- VI. Jacob's response (31-32)
- VII. Laban's search (33-35)
- VIII. Jacob's response (36-42)





²⁴ The LORD bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26 (NASB95)